

Report to Partnership Meeting 13 April 2017

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

SCOTLAND'S 8TH CITY – THE SMART CITY

Purpose of Report:

To seek Members approval for HITRANS to employ an Project Co-ordinator to assist with the delivery and administration of the ERDF Smart Mobility project being undertaken in partnership with The Highland Council following a successful application to the Smart Cities workstream - a collaborative ERDF funded Strategic Intervention entitled 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City'.

Background:

Inverness is a member of the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA), along with Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Stirling and the Scottish Government. Each city is represented by their respective local authority. The Scottish Government is also a member of the SCA. The SCA is focused on three workstreams including low carbon, infrastructure, and smart cities. A smart city uses data and technology to enhance the delivery of city services, promote economic growth, increase sustainability and engage more actively with its citizens.

To further the smart cities workstream Scotland's cities, led by Glasgow City Council, are undertaking a collaborative ERDF funded Strategic Intervention entitled 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City'.

At the HITRANS Partnership meeting in September 2016 approval was given to support the £1.000,000 Smart Mobility project for the Inverness City Region which included a number of innovative travel information, smart parking, bus priority, infrastructure to vehicle pilots, traffic management and open data projects.

HITRANS and The Highland Council have now begun implementing the various work packages but in order to ensure that the various projects elements are delivered by December 2018 the partners and the Managing Authority have agreed that a full time post may be created for the duration of the project to assist with project implementation and administration.

The original project application included provision for a 0.2 FTE project co-ordinator post to assist with the delivery of this project. As a result of the reduced project timeframe, the project Board agreed that this be increased to a full time position for the remainder of the project – estimated 18months contract, commencing June 2016. The Board also agreed that the best vehicle for recruiting the officer would through

HITRANS with the post advertised at the earliest opportunity. This proposal can be accommodated within the partners (The Highland Council and HITRANS) original budget for the project.

Recommendation

Members are invited to support the recruitment of a full-time Project Co-ordinator (Temp contract est.18months) to assist HITRANS and The Highland Council with the implementation and delivery of the ERDF Smart Cities - Smart Mobility project.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – The ERDF Smart Mobility project will enable the delivery of a number of workstreams that support priorities identified in the draft Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work will help implement Intelligent Transport Solution across the Inverness City Region including pilots which could then be adopted across the HITRANS area.

Financial

Impact – Neutral

Budget line and value – The proposal will be accommodated within the budget previously approved for this project.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – This project seeks to improve the provision of travel information for all modes and all transport users.

Report by: Neil MacRae
Designation: Partnership Manager, HITRANS
Date: 4th April 2016